

Statement from the Mayor

10 September 2021

Statement: Strathbogie Shire Mayor Cr Chris Raeburn

I write today to set the record straight on the appointment of a Municipal Monitor for Strathbogie Shire Council.

I want our community to be 100 per cent clear.

The monitor has been established at our request. It has not been imposed on Council.

We are lucky to be able to learn from Janet Dore who has significant experience in senior management at local government and government agencies.

Ms Dore's role will be to provide us with guidance, education and support.

The decision to ask the Minister to appoint a Municipal Monitor was a difficult one.

We knew it could be seen that there is something wrong at Council.

I ask our community to remember, all Councillors bar me are first-time Councillors, and we are all navigating the requirements of a new Local Government Act.

It's not easy.

We want to ensure our implementation of the act is best practice.

With the addition of an independent monitor to our team, our community will see an even further level of transparency in our progress.

The cost of the Municipal Monitor will be covered by Council and we estimate it will be between \$20,000 to \$30,000. This will be entirely covered by the existing budget allocated to governance.

In 10 months, since this Council has been established, we are proud of the achievements we have made.

We have an unwavering commitment to good governance.

We have used best-practice community engagement to deliver our Draft Council Plan and Community Vision.

Our 2021/22 Budgeting process allowed a level of input from our community like never before.

We are working very hard to do the best we can for our community.

I urge you to see the appointment of a Municipal Monitor as a commitment from us that we are true leaders.

Leaders who are not afraid to be put under very public scrutiny, to ensure we are doing the best we can for our community.

To the community who has seen the change we're making and supports our drive to do better I ask that you show your support.

It's not easy to put your hand up for a public role and there are times we need to be reminded we're doing the right thing.

Cr Chris Raeburn
Mayor
Strathbogie Shire Council